English Noun Phrase Morphosyntax

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Speaking and writing good English is not an easy job and, if we take into consideration how complex English grammar is, it is quite difficult to find reliable, user-friendly resources to help with this task. Yet, I have recently discovered Daniela Hăisan's ***English Noun Phrase Morphosyntax*** and I can truly say it is a must-have reference grammar book for anyone trying to improve or expand their knowledge of English.

As clearly stated in the Preface (cf Hăisan 11), the book is a study of the morphosyntactic features of the English Noun Phrase, a study meant to help the reader better understand the topic under scrutiny. Make no mistake: the book does not pretend to exhaust the entire Noun Phrase morphosyntax, but to cover only the most important issues in the field, focusing on those which might be considered problematic to the EFL students, such as: word order, ways of packaging information, Noun Phrases as style markers, the genitive forms, the difference between determiners and modifiers, and so on.

English Noun Phrase Morphosyntax draws on a collection of theoretical models developed over time such as: Generative Grammar, Functional Grammar, Hallidayan Functional-Systemic Grammar, Functional Discourse Grammar, Role and Reference Grammar, Lexical-Functional Grammar,

Logical Semantics, Construction Grammar, closely following the canon of Quirk et al. (1985), Downing & Locke (2006), Berk (1999), Falinski (2011) and especially Kolln & Funk (2012).

The book spreads over five chapters and seven appendices. All chapters are made up of various sub-chapters and sub-sub-chapters and open with a bulleted list, a preview of the topics to be dealt with. They are liberally sprinkled with exercises, as an added bonus, and close with a retrospection of the material presented (*In a Nutshell*), followed by the *Further Practice* section, i.e. consolidation exercises.

Chapter 1, INTRODUCTION TO MORPHOLOGY, covers twenty-nine pages and deals with the **lexical categories** (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions). The topics discussed here are *Some Definitions of Grammar* , *Traditional / School Grammar* , M*odern Linguistics & Grammar*, *Levels of Grammar*, *Morphology, Morphemes, Word-Classes in English, The Form Classes, The Structure Classes, The Three Ranks. From Word to Phrase*.

Chapter 2, (NOUN) PHRASES, on the other hand, is a minute investigation of the **phrasal categories**, offering us a contrastive presentation of their definitions, structures, descriptions, typologies, organisation or the terminology employed: Lexical Categories vs. Phrasal Categories, What's in a Phrase?, The Noun Phrase, The Verb Phrase, The Adjective Phrase, The Adverb Phrase, The Prepositional Phrase, The Appositive Phrase, The Absolute Phrase.

Chapters 3 and 4 discuss the delicate features of noun determination and modification. If either of these two aspects have ever represented a problem in the learning process, their gradual presentation and analysis, the relevant and funny examples, as well as the exercises in the *Practice and Further practice* sections help the reader overcome the hurdles. Thus,

sixty-seven pages are covered with the different types of DETERMINERS *(Articles. Demonstratives & Deixis. Quantifiers: Exact vs. Non-exact. Possessive Determiners: The Double Genitive. Wh-Determiners. Semi-Determiners)* and MODIFIERS (*Modifiers of Nouns & Verbs, Modifiers of the Verb, Measure Phrases as Modifiers of Adjectives, Sentence Modifiers, Modifiers of the Noun (Phrase): Premodifiers (Adjectives; Participles; Nouns; Classifying 's Genitives; Adverbs; Phrases & Clauses), Postmodifiers (Prepositional Phrases; Relative Clauses; Non-Finite Clauses; Other Postmodifiers), Premodifiers vs. Postmodifiers, Other Types of Modifiers).*

If the first four chapters focused on the form of the noun phrases, Chapter 5, NOUN PHRASES: A(NOTHER) GLIMPSE FROM SYNTAX, launches into the syntactic functions these phrases may perform. The reader finds out about: *Sentence Patterns: Subjects, Predicates and Other Slots, Compound Structures, Functions of the Noun Phrase, Nominals and Noun Phrase Substitutes (Gerunds. Infinitives. Nominal Clauses).*

The seven apendices at the end of the book are directly related to the research problem and support the analysis, validating the conclusions reached.

Taking into account the extensive examples and exercises it provides, **English Noun Phrase Morphosyntax** is a very elaborate, practical book meant to facilitate the understanding of the noun phrase. What makes it so approachable is, on the one hand, the author's reader-friendly language and, on the other hand, the fact that each chapter starts with the simplest structures and ends with the most complex ones. It is a comprehensive, qualitative resource for all those wishing to learn English, which could also be used by teachers as a textbook.

Daniela Hăisan animated her book with a catchy sense of pleasure, leaving the reader with the desire to make an upgrade in

his/her use of English. ***English Noun Phrase Morphosyntax*** is an insightful, informative and educational guide book which makes learning more enjoyable, a great book for self-study.